

NATO member, Denmark is one of the strongest supporters of the United States in its campaign against terrorism. It still has soldiers and its air force present in Afghanistan. From day one in 2003 Denmark took part in the coalition's efforts in Iraq with combat troops. It still has 531 combat troops and now has an embassy and an Ambassador in Baghdad. Ambassador Federspiel has worked tirelessly with the Danish government's major role in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Ambassador Federspiel has also been very much involved in other areas of the Middle East. During the Danish EU presidency in 2002, Denmark worked closely with the EU in drafting the Road Map for peace in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Furthermore, since early 2003 Ambassador Federspiel has worked to promote his government's ideas about reform, democracy and security in the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA). Denmark and the U.S. are now seen as the parents of this idea that is generally accepted by the EU, G8 and BMENA countries.

He has seen the importance in strengthening inter-parliamentary relations and has helped to build and support the Congressional Friends of Denmark. As a result of this important work, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly U.S. House of Representatives delegation will participate in bilateral meetings with the Danish parliament in November.

Ambassador Federspiel has also strengthened the economic relations between the U.S. and Denmark, and direct investments in both countries have increased over the last years. In the transatlantic dispute over lifting the EU's weapon embargo towards China, Ambassador Federspiel played a crucial role in postponing the lifting of the embargo indefinitely. Denmark is a consistent defender of the human rights of the Chinese people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ambassador Federspiel for his outstanding service and uncompromising dedication to furthering the friendship between our two great countries, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF PETE MATTIVI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I submit recognition in honor of Pete Mattivi of New Castle, Colorado on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Since his earliest days, Pete has been dedicated to helping his community. He is well loved and respected by all who know him. With wishes for many more years of happiness and health, I congratulate Pete by submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following Glenwood Springs Post Independent article, dated September 12, 2005:

With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face, Pete Mattivi, of New Castle, credits "wine, women and song" with reaching his 100th birthday.

But on a more serious note, he says it's friends, family and his creator that allowed him to see his centennial year on Sept. 8, 2005.

A birthday celebration held Sunday afternoon for Mattivi in Burning Mountain Park

drew a huge crowd and a long line of people who wanted to congratulate him and wish him well.

With music by "Heart of the Rockies" and a buffet of birthday cake and ice cream, Mattivi sat in a folding chair, his cane over his legs as friends lined up to speak to him.

Some were old friends, in wheelchairs and walkers, and some were newer friends who knew of the illustrious Mattivi, although they might not have met him before.

"You are so wonderful—everybody loves you," said longtime New Castle resident Rosie Ferrin.

"One hundred years old—you look great," another well-wisher admired.

"I feel that way, too!" Mattivi smiled and agreed.

Some shared old memories they had with Mattivi.

Liz Lewis, of Rifle, recalled when she was a school bus driver in the 1970s and on a field trip with the kids while Mattivi recounted the history of Marble for the students.

"It was one of the most interesting trips I'd ever been on," Lewis said.

Mattivi has long been a well-known figure in the small town that currently has a population of about 3,000.

Born in 1905, he was raised in Crystal and lived in Marble, Salida and Glenwood Springs before settling in New Castle in 1929. There, he helped his brother, Matt, open a small service station in town, which was booming at that time.

In 1931, he married Opal Woos and the two operated the Mattivi Motor Company at 298 W. Main St. It was later the Three Rivers Repair/Phillips 66 station. Mattivi retired from the business in 1982. Opal Mattivi passed away in August 2000.

Mattivi was also a former longtime mayor of New Castle, serving from 1954 to 1969, and from 1974 to 1981. He was a Garfield County Commissioner from 1957 to 1977 and served 10 years on the Re-2 school board.

"Can we have your autograph?" asked Karen Wentzel, the wife of current mayor Bill Wentzel, when it was her turn in line as she showed Mattivi a collage she had of his past birthdays.

Mattivi graciously signed his name.

For years, Mattivi was known for his beautiful flower gardens at his home on Main Street, just across the street from where his daughter, Pam Bunn, now owns and operates the New Castle Cafe.

"He comes in for breakfast every morning at 8:30 on the dot," Bunn said with a laugh. "He also comes to the senior lunch and dinners."

Mattivi sold a portion of his property on the west side in 1997 but continues to garden the rest.

And even at 100, he is still active, riding his scooter across the street to the cafe and tending to his yard.

Mattivi has no big secrets to making it to the big 1-0-0.

"I live day by day," Mattivi said earnestly. "The next thing you know, you're 100. People have been good to me, and my creator has been good to me. I've just followed what was given to me."

NATIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Addiction Recovery Month this

September, I would be honored to have Congress join me in celebrating those who commit their time and effort to addiction recovery.

Last year, over 19 million Americans used illicit drugs. Fifty-five million had engaged in binge drinking, and over 16 million are considered heavy drinkers. These numbers are more than just statistics. If you take the time to examine them, they are in fact quite staggering. Imagine if the entire populations of New York and Los Angeles combined were all illicit drug users. Imagine if the entire population of Florida were heavy drinkers. That's how prevalent the problem is. The impact is felt not only by individuals and their families, but by society as well. Addiction costs our society and economy billions of dollars each year, in health care costs, property damage, and lost productivity. It also costs lives, and causes immense amounts of grief and pain. Each one of those millions of Americans has a story, and we should ensure that each one of them has the chance to tell their story to an addiction counselor, in hopes that they will receive the necessary treatment and care. Addiction is a disease, as serious and as deadly as many others. Alcohol and drug addiction are very serious, and very destructive. No one is immune from addiction, as it afflicts people of all ages, all races, all classes, and all professions.

As with any serious disease, the treatment for addiction relies on great amounts of research and advances in health sciences. The National Institutes of Health is a leader in this regard, and many of its 27 institutes have committed funds to research on addiction, including research on how addiction takes over the brain, the body, and the central nervous system. Two institutes in particular at NIH focus only on this issue of critical importance: The National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. For many decades, these two institutes have been making tremendous strides in the fight against addiction. Congress spends billions of dollars each year on addiction research, and these institutes have justified our faith and commitment to this issue.

Too often, problems in our society carry with them a certain stigma. Addiction is one such problem. Thousands, if not millions, of people do not seek treatment for addiction because of a misunderstanding of their condition, both on their behalf and on society's behalf. NIDA and NIAAA have both sought to understand this stigma, and bring it to an end. Led by Dr. Nora Volkow and Dr. T.K. Li, respectively, NIDA and NIAAA are constantly making progress to improve our understanding and treatment of addiction. Addiction is a disease, and must be attacked as such. Our fight against it must be aggressive and unyielding. Both NIDA and NIAAA fund scientists all over the country, who in turn will one day unlock the mysteries of addiction and its impact on individuals and society.

NIDA and NIAAA provide the ammunition for the troops on the front lines battling this disease. I am referring of course to the addiction counselors, who must daily encounter the difficult task of prevention, intervention, and treatment. These foot-soldiers in our war against addiction need all of the support we can give them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can show our support for them through our strong support for NIDA, NIAAA, and the other NIH institutes committed to solving the enigma of addiction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the priceless contributions of NIDA, NIAAA, and addiction counselors, and giving them our gratitude. Congress has shown strong support for this issue in the past in several ways—through legislation, through funding for the National Institutes of Health and the CDC, and through displaying a constant awareness of the gravity of this issue. Yet we are far from victory, and must continue our steadfast fight against drug and alcohol addiction. We look forward to the day when addiction to drugs and alcohol are eradicated, and these wonderful professionals can take their final bow. Until then, their hard work should be recognized and, more importantly, honored and appreciated.

REMARKS ON HURRICANE
KATRINA

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise today in solidarity with my fellow Americans who suffered the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. We deeply mourn the loss of life. We share the pain of those who are suffering physically and emotionally from this trauma. And we also mourn the loss of some of our faith in government to respond in full measure to people in need.

In the past few days I have received scores of calls and e-mails from my constituents in Wisconsin expressing their support for the victims of the devastation and also their outrage at the slow and inefficient federal response to that tragedy.

Wisconsinites are deeply ashamed of the images of abandonment and neglect they saw on TV and desperate to help in rescue efforts. My heart goes out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to those family members here in Wisconsin and across the country waiting for word from their loved ones. While Americans are reaching into their wallets to support private relief efforts, there should be no doubt that the federal government must provide the leadership to ultimately meet the challenges of this situation.

Particularly disturbing is that we have spent more than \$36.7 billion dollars since the September 11th terrorist attacks planning for a response to a disaster of epic proportions. Now we've had one. Given the response of the Department of Homeland Security to this disaster, every aspect of that Department's performance and capability is now called into question and the security of every American hangs in the balance. Wisconsinites are not alone in calling for a government investigation into this catastrophic failure and an immediate overhaul of the system so that such a failure never again occurs.

Congress has now sent more than \$62 billion in federal disaster relief to help save and aid hurricane victims and I supported this authorization of money. But money, alone, will not solve the problems we face.

The response to this disaster showed us many things, among them that our social safety net has been badly neglected. It showed us also that we have been inadequate stewards of the environment.

Whether it's our failure to fight poverty and provide health care to all in America; or our failure to make proper and adequate investments in infrastructure (including our emergency communications infrastructure); or our failure to protect the natural buffers, our coastal wetlands and barrier island which serve as Mother Nature's shock absorbers; or our failure to listen to scientists long warning us of climate change; or our failure to embark upon a path that decreases (rather than increases) our dependence on finite resources so that future generations won't experience the fear and anxiety that grips all of our constituents when fuel becomes unaffordable.

All of this was revealed stunningly in recent days. Let us not ignore what was exposed to us. This time, let's seize the opportunity to work toward the common good; to help those with the least, not just those with the most; and to make good on the social compact.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we have the opportunity to reclaim the promise of America. Failure is not an option.

THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE: WE
DELIVER THE GOODS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, when I introduced H.R. 23, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act" the positive response was overwhelming. Many of these Merchant Mariners have shared their harrowing, 60-year-old stories and experiences with me, and each personal account strengthens my resolve to see that these brave heroes are treated with respect by the U.S. government.

In my ongoing fight to correct the injustice being done to the U.S. Merchant Marines—men who have yet to be given full benefits as World War II veterans—I would like to submit the following article from *The American Legion* by Dan Allsup, a freelance writer from the St. Louis area, entitled, "We Deliver the Goods":

It's not that Bob Bodine wanted to avoid the World War II draft in 1943. He just didn't think being an Army infantryman sounded like a whole lot of fun.

Bodine tried to join the Army Air Corps but failed the vision test. He talked to a Navy aviation recruiter, but the Navy was bringing on 17-year-olds at the time. Bodine was too old at 18.

"What else is there?" he asked the recruiter. "Well, there's the Merchant Marine, but they've got a hell of a casualty rate," the recruiter said.

Bodine, now 80, recalls the conversation. "What does a teenager care about casualty statistics? I always liked boats, so the Merchant Marine sounded pretty good to me."

He secured a slot at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. In his second year, Bodine sailed off on a required 9-month cruise to the Mediterranean. It didn't take long for him to realize that if he was trying to avoid the draft, he could have taken an easier route. Bodine was a crew-member aboard the USS *Fleming*, which was hauling a dozen P-51 aircraft and a huge load of vehicle and aviation fuel to the troops. The *Fleming* was part of a 110-ship convoy. While it escaped the war unscathed, 50 of her sister ships were sunk by German U-boats and floating mines.

Bodine is one of the more than 243,000 civilian volunteer mariners who served aboard ships that provided the greatest seafight in history. Critical to the war effort, the U.S. merchant fleet delivered troops, supplies, ammunition and equipment all over the world. It took part in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa, often becoming sitting-duck targets for enemy submarines, mines, bombers and kamikaze pilots. Fighting was especially fierce in the Atlantic, where "wolf packs" of German submarines and deadly U-boats prowled the ocean destroying Merchant Marine ships in an attempt to isolate Great Britain. Closer to home, enemy submarines sank hundreds of ships off the eastern coast of the United States.

In the first 6 months of 1942, German U-boats alone sank more than 400 U.S. merchant ships. Because no official history has been written of the Merchant Marine in World War II, casualty numbers vary from source to source. It is believed, however, that about 9,300 mariners were killed during the war, and more than 1,500 of their ships were sunk. Fortunately, because most Merchant Marine ships traveled in convoys, many of the mariners aboard wounded vessels were fished from the sea by nearby ships. About 600 mariners were prisoners of war and another 11,000 were injured.

Susan Clark, public-affairs officer for the U.S. Maritime Administration—the Federal agency most involved with the Merchant Marine—said that other than the U.S. Marines, mariners had a higher death rate than any other branch of the service during the war. (Some mariners may take exception to that statistic. A web site for Merchant Marine veterans says their death rate was 1 in 26 and the Marine Corps was 1 in 34.)

President Franklin Roosevelt summed up the war contributions of the U.S. Merchant Marine: "The (mariners) have written one of its most brilliant chapters. They have delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult and most dangerous job ever taken."

Despite their losses and their importance to the war effort, surviving mariners weren't met with parades and flags when they returned home. They weren't considered veterans. They couldn't take advantage of the GI Bill, small business loans or medical care for disabilities. Officially, they were civilians. If they were lucky, they received a thank you letter and a lapel pin from the President. After years of fighting the system and a long court battle, some World War II mariners finally received limited veteran status on Jan. 19, 1988.

Sixty years after he last hung up his Merchant Marine uniform, Bodine and many of his Academy classmates still can't believe they weren't considered members of the U.S. Armed Forces during the war. "I didn't know otherwise until I realized that I wasn't eligible for the GI Bill or any other veterans benefits," he said.

Although some bitterness about the lack of recognition remains, the Merchant Marine sails on today. After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, 29 Merchant Marine Academy students operated a fleet of boats into New York Harbor, transporting firefighters and other emergency workers, along with food and medical supplies.

Today, more than 8,000 mariners serve in the Military Sealift Command, most of them working in support of the Iraqi war. An average vessel moves the equivalent of about 300 C-17 cargo aircraft, freeing up aircraft for other critical missions.

From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the U.S. Merchant Marine has delivered the goods.